

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/765,844

Examiner

Carol S. Tsai

Applicant(s)

TERAUCHI, YOUJI

Art Unit

2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/18/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 38-45, now renumbered as 1-7.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 38-45 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

U.S. Patent No. 6,636,998 to Lee et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,856,158 to Frame et al. are references closest to the claimed invention. Lee et al. in combination with Frame et al. disclose a testing circuit comprising: m (m is an integer of 2 or more) block test units, each of which compares a first data of n (n is a positive integer) bits with a reference data of said n bits for each corresponding bit, and outputs a comparison result as a test circuit output signal based on a output control signal, wherein said first data is outputted from corresponding one of m object circuits for a test; and a first logical processing unit which judges whether or not said all of m said test circuit output signals indicate that said first data is coincident with said reference data, and outputs a judgment result as a total judgment result signal based on said m test circuit output signals, wherein each of said m block test units includes: a block judging unit which compares said first data with said reference data for each corresponding bit to judge whether said first data is coincident with said reference data, and outputs a comparison result as a block judgment result signal, and a block output selecting unit which outputs one of said block judgment result signal and a predetermined standard signal as said test circuit output signal based on said output control signal. However, Lee et al. in combination with Frame et al. do not teach a determination which one of said block judgment result signal and said predetermined standard

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signal to use as said test circuit output signal is based on said output control signal; and including all of the other limitations in the respective independent claims.

U.S. Patent No. 6,636,998 to Lee et al. in view of U.S Patent No. 6,856,158 to Frame et al. are references closest to the claimed invention. Lee et al. in combination with Frame et al. disclose a testing circuit comprising: m (m is an integer of 2 or more) block test units, each of which compares a first data of n (n is a positive integer) bits with a reference data of said n bits for each corresponding bit, and outputs a comparison result as a test circuit output signal based on a output control signal, wherein said first data is outputted from corresponding one of m object circuits for a test; and a first logical processing unit which judges whether or not said all of m said test circuit output signals indicate that said first data is coincident with said reference data, and outputs a judgment result as a total judgment result signal based on said m test circuit output signals, wherein each of said m block test units includes: a block judging unit which compares said first data with said reference data for each corresponding bit to judge whether said first data is coincident with said reference data, and outputs a comparison result as a block judgment result signal, and a block output selecting unit which outputs one of said block judgment result signal and a predetermined standard signal as said test circuit output signal based on said output control signal. However, Lee et al. in combination with Frame et al. do not teach said output control signal being set such that said block output selecting unit outputs one of said block judgment result signal and said standard signal, in reference to a test condition for said one of m object circuits when said first data is outputted; and including all of the other limitations in the respective independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Contact Information

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carol S. W. Tsai whose telephone number is (571) 272-2224. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S. Hoff can be reached on (571) 272-2216. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

cswt
July 6, 2006
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CAROL S.W. TSAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER